



Clear Creek County

POST OFFICE BOX 2000
GEORGETOWN, COLORADO 80444

TELEPHONE: (303) 569-3251 • (303) 679-2300

November 26, 2013

The Honorable Gail Schwartz
Chair, Capital Development Committee
State Capitol Building
Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senator Schwartz:

We are writing in support of History Colorado's funding request in your upcoming appropriation for the Georgetown Loop Railroad operations. The request would be for the following:

1. Georgetown Loop Railroad Forest Health Phase 1 of 3: \$304,656 – to continue work on the wooded areas of the park and remove unhealthy and pine beetle killed trees.
2. Georgetown Loop Railroad Business Capitalization Program, Phase 2: \$400,000 – to address business capitalization and infrastructure needs of the railroad.
3. Lebanon Mine Dam Restoration: \$768,210 –for reconstruction of the Lebanon Mill Dam at the Georgetown Loop Railroad. This project would allow History Colorado to utilize unused water rights for the reservoir to become the augmentation source for steam locomotive evaporation loss and well water use.

Should these projects be funded, the funding would be used to support the operation of the railroad which is exceptionally important to the economy of our small mountain communities. The Georgetown Loop Railroad is an important tourist destination and a vital economic producer for Clear Creek County. We collected the following statistics to demonstrate the importance of maintaining this railroad:

- There were 107,000+ passengers last year. They hope to have in excess of 103,000 this year.
- 60%+ of the passengers board in Georgetown.
- The railroad employs more than 70 people at the height of the season and about 15 year round.
- The railroad operates May through December, driving people to our communities the vast majority of the year.
- The railroad attracts another estimated 30,000 people per year who visit the loop, but do not ride.
- To date, the railroad has cut down in excess of 2000 dead and diseased trees.
- With the first capital appropriation for locomotives, the railroad has been able to purchase another much needed large diesel locomotive and made significant progress on the rehabilitation of the large steam locomotive.

Again, we reaffirm our support for the increased funding for the Georgetown Loop Railroad. Clear Creek County and History Colorado have been working collaboratively for years to maintain and support the railroad to provide a historic railroad experience for our visitors and residents of Colorado. We hope you will give their application your full and positive consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

CLEAR CREEK BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Timothy J. Mauck, Chairman


Phil Buckland, Commissioner


Tom Hayden, Commissioner

cc: Colorado Representative Edward Vigil, CDC Vice-Chair
Colorado Senator Randy Baumgardner, CDC
Colorado Senator Cheri Jahn, CDC
Colorado Senator Kevin Grantham
Colorado Representative KC Becker
Colorado Representative Randy Fischer, CDC
Colorado Representative Libby Szabo, CDC
Kori Donaldson, CDC Staff
Henry Sobanet, Director, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Edward C. Nichols, President History Colorado



November 25, 2013

The Honorable Gail Schwartz
Chair, Capital Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 029
200 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Schwartz:

The historic Georgetown Loop Railroad is a treasure to the State of Colorado and Clear Creek County. The economic benefits of this unique destination attraction are not only local but regional and State-wide as well. The Loop has been sorely under-funded for a number of years and their ability to address much needed improvements to the rolling stock and infrastructure has been curtailed. This letter is an appeal to continue funding for the Georgetown Loop so that they may address several specific areas of concern:

1. Georgetown Loop Railroad Forest Health - to continue work on the wooded areas of the Park to promote health, improve habitat, and protect against catastrophic fire.
2. Business Capitalization Program – to address business capitalization and infrastructure needs including developing a reliable fleet of motive power.
3. Lebanon Mill Dam Restoration – reconstruction of the Lebanon Mill Dam.

The Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation wholeheartedly supports this continue funding.

Over 100,000 visitors road the GTLRR in 2013, from May to December. In addition, the Loop creates more than 70 jobs in peak season. The economic impacts are paramount to the Loop, local businesses, and State. Tourism is the second largest industry to Clear Creek and the Georgetown Loop Railroad is an anchor to this economy. Over the years the Corporation has invested in the Loop operations from its CDBG Revolving Loan Fund, an important source of local funding for businesses. A continued investment from the State will ensure that the Loop thrives and remains a first class operation.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration of this funding request. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Peggy Stokstad

Peggy Stokstad, President/CEO

Cc: Representative. Edward Vigil, CDC Vice-Chair, Senator Randy Baumgardner, CDC, Senator Cheri Jahn, CDC, Senator Kevin Grantham, Representative, KC Becker, Representative Randy Fischer, CDC, Representative Libby Szabo, Kori Donaldson, Henry Sobanet, Director, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting, Edward Nichols, President, History Colorado



November 25, 2013

The Honorable Gail Schwartz
Chair, Capital Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203

Ms. Gail Schwartz,

We, the Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau, are writing in support of History Colorado's continuation of state funding for the following two Georgetown Loop Railroad projects:

1. Georgetown Loop Railroad[®] (GTLRR) Forest Health Phase 1 of 3 (\$304,656 of \$980,471) - To continue work on the wooded areas of the Park. Removal of unhealthy and pine beetle killed trees. Clearing of dense forest areas to promote health, improve habitat, and protect against catastrophic fire.
2. GTLRR Business Capitalization Program, Phase II, \$400,000 (\$300,000 General Funds, \$100,000 Cash Funds) -Request of \$300,000 Capital Construction Funds and \$100,000 cash fund spending authority (from gifts, grants, and donations) to address business capitalization and infrastructure needs at the Georgetown Loop Railroad —most importantly developing a reliable fleet of motive power.

We, the Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau, are also in support of the new Lebanon Mill Dam Restoration project to the sum of \$768,210. The GTLRR plans for these funds to be used in reconstructing the Lebanon Mill Dam at the Georgetown Loop Railroad. This reconstruction would allow History Colorado to utilize unused water rights for the reservoir to become the augmentation source for steam locomotive evaporation loss and Devil's Gate well water use—a necessity in operating the Georgetown Loop Railroad. Facilities staff and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting will jointly approach the Department of Natural Resources and others in search of funding sources for this project.

As you may already know, the Loop is under-capitalized, especially in the area of locomotives, and this funding will help the Georgetown Loop Railroad run more efficiently and reliably. At times, they are running on a shoe string, and in 2006 three locomotives broke down within 9 days causing a 7 day shut down, and in 2007 they were shut down for more than 40 days. These effects are felt not only by the GTLRR, but also by the merchants in Georgetown and throughout the County.

Should the requested projects be funded, the funding would be used to improve the surrounding land, preserve Colorado History, and support the overall operation of the railroad. The Georgetown Loop Railroad is important to the economy of our small mountain communities - it is a key tourist destination and a vital economic producer for Clear Creek County. The following statistics were collected to demonstrate the importance of maintaining this railroad:

- There were over 107,000 passengers last year, and hope to have in excess of 103,000 this year.
- Over 60% of the passengers board in Georgetown.
- The GTLRR employs more than 70 people at the height of the season, and about 15 year round.
- They attract another estimated 30,000 people per year who visit the Loop, but do not ride.
- Currently, over 2,000 dead and diseased trees have been cut down and they have mitigated an area of ladder fuels 40 feet wide along the right of way the entire length of the rail line.
- With the first capital appropriation for locomotives they were able to purchase a large diesel locomotive (still in need of restoration) and have made significant progress on rehabilitating a large steam locomotive. However, additional funding is needed to complete these two projects.

In closing we would like to thank you for your time and encourage you to strongly consider funding the request of History Colorado and Clear Creek County's Georgetown Loop Railroad!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Patton", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Cassandra Patton,
Director, Clear Creek County Tourism Bureau

The Town of Georgetown

November 27, 2013

P.O. Box 426
Georgetown, Colorado 80444-0426
(303) 569-2555

Senator Gail Schwartz
Chair, Capital Development Committee
State Capitol Building, Room 029
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senator Schwartz:

The Town of Georgetown has a long standing partnership with and is a supporter of the Georgetown Loop Railroad®. The historic railroad is an asset to Georgetown that helps us preserve and protect Georgetown, a National Historic Landmark District and is an economic engine for the Town.

Important facts to know about the Georgetown Loop Railroad® today which have a great benefit to the Town of Georgetown

1. Georgetown Loop Railroad® (GLR) had 107,000 plus passengers last year.
2. 60%+ of the passengers board in Georgetown.
3. GLR employs more than 70 people at the height of the season (lasting 4 to 8 months) and more than 15 year round. Many of those employees live in Georgetown.
4. GLR operates from May through early January, bringing people to our communities the vast majority of the year.
5. GLR attracts another estimated 30,000 people per year who visit the Loop, but do not ride.
6. GLR has cut down in excess of 2,000 dead and diseased trees and mitigated an area of ladder fuels 40 feet wide along the right of way the entire length of the rail line which helps protect the Town of Georgetown from possible wildfires.
7. With the first capital appropriation for locomotives the railroad purchased another much needed large diesel locomotive (but still needing restoration) and made significant progress on the rehabilitation of a large steam locomotive.

The Town of Georgetown strongly supports funding for Georgetown Loop Railroad®

The Georgetown Loop Railroad® is seeking the continuation of state funding for the following two projects:

1. The Georgetown Loop Railroad® Forest Health Phase 1 of 3 (\$304,656 of \$980,471) -To continue work on the wooded areas of the Park. Removal of unhealthy and pine beetle killed trees. Clearing of dense forest areas to promote health, improve habitat, and protect against catastrophic fire.
2. GTLRR Business Capitalization Program, Phase II, \$400,000 (\$300,000 General Funds, \$100,000 Cash Funds) Request of \$300,000 Capital Construction Funds and \$100,000 cash fund spending authority (from gifts, grants, and donations) to address business capitalization and infrastructure needs at the Georgetown Loop Railroad—most importantly developing a reliable fleet of motive power.



The Town of Georgetown

P.O. Box 426
Georgetown, Colorado 80444-0426
(303) 569-2555

The Town of Georgetown is also supportive of a new project:

Lebanon Mill Dam Restoration (\$768,210) - Request of Capital Construction Funds for reconstruction of the Lebanon Mill Dam at the Georgetown Loop Railroad. The project will allow History Colorado to utilize unused water rights for the reservoir to become the augmentation source for steam locomotive evaporation loss and Devil's Gate well water use—a necessity in operating the Georgetown Loop Railroad. Facilities staff and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting will jointly approach the Department of Natural Resources and others in search of funding sources for this project.

The railroad remains undercapitalized in many respects, especially in the area of locomotives. In 2006 three locomotives broke down within 9 days and the Loop was shut down for several days. In 2007 it was even more significant being shut down for more than 40 days due to inoperable locomotives. A number of merchants in Georgetown saw an immediate decrease in sales during those closures with some reporting up to a 25% loss of sales. Extended periods of such closures would strain the Town's budget with the coinciding reduction in sales tax revenue.

Sincerely,



Craig Abrahamson
Police Judge / Ex-Officio Mayor
Town of Georgetown

cc: Rep. Edward Vigil, CDC Vice-Chair
Sen. Randy Baumgardner, CDC
Sen. Cheri Jahn, CDC
Sen. Kevin Grantham
Rep. KC Becker
Rep. Randy Fischer, CDC
Rep. Libby Szabo, CDC
Kori Donaldson, CDC Staff
Henry Sobanet, Director, Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Edward C. Nichols, President History Colorado
Thomas H. Hale, Town Administrator

